

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 189551

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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TO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, EC

SUBJECT: CONGRESS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN PLANNING SOCIETY
(SIAP), GUAYAQUIL, SEPT. 5-10

1. FRANK BALLANCE, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO SENATOR JACOB JAVITS, HAS BEEN INVITED TO SPEAK BEFORE THE SIAP CONGRESS IN GUAYAQUIL IN SEPTEMBER. INVITATION CAME FROM CARLOS MEDINA CASTRO, PRESIDENT OF THE ECUADORIAN PLANNING SOCIETY, AND INCLUDES OFFER TO PAY EXPENSES IN GUAYAQUIL. BEFORE REQUESTING COMMITTEE FUNDS TO PAY FOR HIS TRAVEL, HOWEVER, BALLANCE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS CONGRESS. HE IS CONCERNED, FOR EXAMPLE, BECAUSE HE DOES NOT SPEAK SPANISH. CAN POST DISCREETLY DETERMINE THE LEVEL AND EXTENT OF INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION, PROBABLE OTHER SPEAKERS, AVAILABILITY OF INTERPRETING SERVICES, AND OTHER BACKGROUND THAT COULD INFLUENCE BALLANCE'S DECISION? PLEASE REPORT ASAP.

2. FYI: IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRY FROM RAFAEL PICO, DIRECTOR OF THE BANCO POPULAR DE PUERTO RICO, THE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED BALLANCE AS A SIAP SPEAKER ON USG PLANNING.

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BALLANCE HAS WORKED ON KEY U.S. LEGISLATION IN THIS
FIELD. AT THIS POINT HE SEEMS INCLINED TOWARDS
PARTICIPATION, BUT SINCE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE
FUNDS ARE NEEDED HE WANTS TO BE SURE IN HIS OWN MIND
THAT THE TRIP IS JUSTIFIED. KISSINGER

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